5) Sh. Sajjid Shafi

6) Mir Nasarullah Lasjan

Assam

1) Sh. S.K. Tiwari

2) Sh. Lohit Das

3) Sh. Ranjani Das

4) Sh. C.R. Mohanty

5) Sh. Krishan Lal

6) Sh. Shank Gupta

[*Translation*]

Atrocities on Backward and Minority Communities

*57. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of atrocities on backward and minority communities are on the increase in the country during the last five months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Law and Order is a State subject. Offences under the law are investigated, tried and punishments awarded. No data is maintained of such offences, community wise, in the Ministry of Welfare.

Setting up Development Board to Remove Regional Imbalances

*58. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a development board to remove regional imbalances in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the other measures Government propose to take in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). Article 371(2) of the Constitution envisages special responsibility of the Governor for the establishment of separate development boards for Vidharbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra, and Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of Gujarat. No development boards have been set up so far. The proposals sent by the Government of Maharashtra are under examination.

[*English*]

Power Crisis

*59. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the country is facing an acute power crisis;

(b) if so, the step proposed to be taken to increase power generation to meet the demand of different states, State-wise;

(c) the plan drawn up for the eighth Plan;

(d) whether any long term strategies are proposed to be adopted keeping in view of the growing need of power in the country; and

(e) if so, detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CON-